

Message Text

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12

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 SR-02 ORM-03 /131 R

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4/12/73 EXT 22660

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AF/ N: HODELL

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R 130034 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 068941

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS ATTEMPT TO IMPLICATE US IN ISRAELI

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BEIRUT RAID

1. ASST SECY SISCO TELEPHONED EGYPTIAN MIN KHALIL APR 12 TO SAY WE DISTURBED AT TENOR OF CAIRO PRESS TREATMENT OF ISRAELI RAIDS AGAINST FEDAYEEN IN BEIRUT. THERE APPEARS TO US TO BE CONCERTED EFFORT BY TWO OF CAIRO' S THREE PAPERS TO IMPLICATE US IN THIS OPERATION ON BASIS OF TOTALLY FLIMSY " EVIDENCE" AND IN SPITE OF OUR CATEGORIC DENIALS THAT US INVOLVED IN ANY WAY. WE HAD MADE IT CLEAR THERE ABSOLUTELY NO FOUNDATION TO THESE ALLEGATIONS. US EMBASSY IN BEIRUT HAD ISSUED STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT, BUT NEITHER OF THE TWO CAIRO PAPERS HAD BOTHERED TO REPORT THIS. USG CONCERNED BECAUSE THIS COVERAGE IS IRRESPONSIBLE AND COULD HAVE RESULT OF INFLAMING PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST US. SISCO RECALLED THAT EGYPTIAN ACCUSATIONS OF US INVOLVEMENT IN 1967 WAR HAD TAKEN LONG TIME TO SORT OUT.

2. SISCO STATED IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF GOE WOULD USE ITS INFLUENCE TO CHANGE THIS SITUATION. USG ALSO ASSUMED EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES WERE TAKING THE NECESSARY SECURITY PRECAUTIONS TO ENSURE SAFETY OF AMERICANS IN EGYPT.

3. KHALIL COMMENTED IT WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IF USG HAD DEPLOYED OR CONDEMNED ISRAELI RAID INTO LEBANON. HE NOTED

HE HAD CONVEYED DEPT PRESS SPOKESMAN' S REMARKS ON THIS SUBJECT TO CAIRO. SISCO SAID US POSITION REMAINED THAT WE AGAINST VIOLENCE FROM ALL QUARTERS. WE OBJECTED TO PROPENSITY TO CONDEMN ONLY ONE SIDE AS REFLECTED IN SOME UN DEBATES, FOR EXAMPLE. SISCO REFUTED LEGAL DISTINCTION DRAWN BY SOME BETWEEN ACTS BY A GOVERNMENT AND THOSE OF NON- GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS FEDAYEEN. THIS LEGAL NICETY, HE SAID, HAD LOST ALL MEANING IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES: VICTIMS JUST AS DEAD IN EITHER CASE. KHALIL SAID CAIRO DISTURBED AT WHAT IT SAW AS TENDENCY HERE TO EQUATE BSO WITH ALL PALESTINIANS. SISCO REPLIED THAT WE HAD MADE CLEAR ON REPEATED OCCASIONS-- HE HAD DONE SO ONLY TWO HOURS BEFORE IN VOA STATEMENT-- THAT WE SEEK PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT FOR ALL, INCLUDING JUST SETTLEMENT FOR PALESTINIANS. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE068941
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GNANDERSON: DD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730445/aaaairhr.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Sep-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <30-Nov-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980122
Subject: CAIRO PRESS ATTEMPT TO IMPLICATE US IN ISRAELI
TAGS: PFOR, EG
To: CAIRO INFO ALGIERS
JIDDA
KHARTOUM
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005